

**USAID/ Macedonia Annual Program Statement (APS) Number APS 165-12-000001 for  
Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia (SIMM) Program**

**AMENDMENT No. 1**

**Questions & Answers**

**Question 1:**

I read with great interest the grant posted two days for "Strengthening Independent Media in Macedonia," and its goal of "empowering journalists to reduce their vulnerability to political, economic and legal intimidation." I wonder if you would consider security training including digital as well as physical security as well as emotional self-care training to be included as methods of empowerment to deter intimidation.

**Answer 1:**

Security training, including physical and emotional self-care training is beyond the scope of this program. Information security is eligible.

**Question 2:**

We'll apply for the advertised program. In that regard, we are in touch with several similar associations that might form consortium. We are interested to know if USAID will be willing to propose cooperation among similar projects. Our dilemma is which objective to choose: improved journalist's ethics or strengthening the citizens' initiative.

**Answer 2:**

Consortiums are eligible to participate in this program. USAID may propose cooperation among similar projects. It is up to the applicant which objective to choose.

**Question 3:**

Is eligible one of the partner organizations within the consortium to be registered Trade Union? The Trade Union is registered under specific legal act that is different from the laws referring to the non-governmental organizations and foundations and this is not specified in the call.

**Answer 3:**

Yes, Trade Unions are eligible.

**Question 4:**

Can the same consortium apply with two separate concept papers for different objectives? E.g. in the first application we apply for Objectives 1 and 2 and in the second application for Objective 3.

**Answer: 4:**

We encourage you to apply with one concept paper for some, or all objectives.

**Question 5:**

Is there a limitation for one organization to be part of two different consortiums? E.g. .... as a member of consortium of X, Y , Z and at the same time is member of a consortium V, R, T.

**Answer 5:**

No, there is no such limitation.



**Question 6:**

In case we submit application as part of a consortium with other partners is there any limitation regarding the number of partners in one consortium and should the consortium appoint a lead partner / applicant?

**Answer 6:**

No, there is no limitation on the number of partners in consortium. The consortium should have a leader.

**Question 7:**

In case the consortium should have lead partner/ applicant, what should its role/obligations/responsibilities be?

**Answer 7:**

The concept paper should clearly specify the division of roles and responsibilities of all partners. The determination of the role of the leader is subject to the agreement between the partner organizations within the consortium.

**Question 8:**

Is it allowed one organization to be eligible to submit more than one application or be part of more than one consortium under this call?

**Answer 8:**

Yes, it is allowed.

**Question 9:**

Is partnership with US based NGO's or consultancy companies allowed?

**Answer 9:**

Yes, it is allowed.

**Question 10:**

One of the main obstacles that printed media in Albanian language faces is related to non-existence of the printing house that would support low cost of printing the newspapers. Therefore, three Albanian newspapers are enforced to print their newspapers in printing houses that in one or another side are under governmental control thus creating conditions for putting them under governmental cap. In this line, three Albanian language newspapers in Macedonia are ready to join their efforts in a consortium to seek a support from USAID through this project for establishing a join printing house for all three newspapers. Extension of this support from USAID will directly contribute to fulfillment of the program objectives. In this regard, we would like to know if this action could be supported and it is in line with the program outputs.

**Answer 10:**

If you submit a concept paper, we'll review it.

**Question 11:**

With regard to the eligibility for participation in this USAID grant, we would like to know if the media are eligible to participate for a whole or for the specific parts of this grant in line with program objectives.

**Answer 11:**

The media are eligible to participate in this program.



**Question 12:**

With regard to eligibility to participation in this USAID grant we would like to know if a consortium of printed media, TV, think-tank and independent video production, are eligible to apply for a whole or for the specific parts of this grant in line with program objectives.

**Answer 12:**

Yes, such consortiums are eligible.

**Question 13:**

Is it possible to apply as an individual organization and as a group of organizations at the same time for this APS?

**Answer 13:**

Yes, it is possible.